

September 1, 2015

Dear Friends and Supporters of NWTS,

Greetings from the Board of NWTS. We give thanks to God for all of you, as we write to apprise you of recent developments at Northwest Theological Seminary and of some significant Board decisions that have been reached over the summer.

On May 9, 2015, the Seminary joyfully celebrated the graduation of two students, Mr. Ben Davenport and Mr. Carlo Saulzallido. On that same date, the Board met and acted on motion to accept the resignation of Board President, the Rev. Lawrence Semel, due to Larry's declining health. The Board has met two times since then, adopting the new annual budget, electing officers and adding Mr. Andy Elam as a new Board member.

The month of September brings the start of a new semester of classes and another academic year. The fall class schedule is available on the seminary web page ([nwts.edu](http://nwts.edu)). We currently have two M.Div. students enrolled in fall classes and they are on a pace to graduate in the next two to three years.

However, with this letter the NWTS Board wishes to inform you about some other seminary news that may surprise you. Following this year's May graduation, Professor Dennison informed the Board that it was his intention to retire at the completion of the academic work of our two current students. He also indicated that because of age and some other health issues, he does not feel he has the energy to teach a full curriculum and take on more first-year students. After a time of evaluation this summer, the Board determined to accept his resignation. The Board also spent some time with the rest of the faculty discussing and evaluating the seminary's future and we recognize that Professor Vosteen is also at an age where health concerns may soon become an issue.

As of our meeting on July 21, 2015, we have come to the conclusion as a Board, that in God's providence, the seminary has run its course. Over the years, the seminary has had an effective ministry in many ways for which we rejoice. We are grateful for those men whom the Lord has been pleased to add to the Christian ministry through seminary training received at NWTS. We are grateful for articles that have been written and books that have been published and the increase in knowledge and understanding of the Word of God that has accompanied these efforts. While the student population has not grown over the years as we had originally hoped, we are nevertheless profoundly grateful for those particular students the Lord has brought to NWTS and

for those churches and individuals who have faithfully stood with them and with the seminary through their prayers and financial gifts. For these things, we shall give thanks and praise to our God, even in the midst of our painful determination reached on July 21.

Thus, we the NWTS Board, write to inform you about two difficult decisions that are the outworking of that determination:

First, the Board determined that the seminary will not accept any more new student applications. There are two to three years of academic work left for the two remaining students and the current Faculty will put their focus and energy into teaching them.

Second, the Board determined that the current seminary assets are sufficient enough that we will no longer need the financial support of our faithful donors. We want you to know that the current Faculty will be paid at their current salaries for at least the next two years.

As a result of the above, we have decided to suspend the publication of the "Our Story" newsletter, effective with the September 2015 issue.

As you can imagine, this is a sad and difficult decision for all of us. We are so grateful to the Lord for all of you, our faithful supporters, who have been so diligent in your prayers and financial support. On behalf of the Faculty and Board, we want to thank you for your encouragement. Even so, with the apostle, we want to say to you: "therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

On behalf the Board of NWTS,

Robert C. Van Kooten, President